

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 239386
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 EUR-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00
SP-02 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /042 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:ALEGGIO:PAW
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
EB/ORF/FSE:JTODD

-----047826 050157Z /75

O R 050048Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239386

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PLOS, TS, LY

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF READING AND BATES DRILLING IN DISPUTED
TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: TUNIS 7089

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY RELIABLE SOURCE CLOSE TO
READING AND BATES THAT RESULTS OF "J.W. BATES" DRILLING
IN DISPUTED TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF REVEALED
NO "OIL IN THE PITS", E.G. NO SIGN OF OIL IN THE TANKS
THROUGH WHICH DRILLING MUD IS RECIRCULATED. THERE WAS NO
TESTING CONDUCTED, HOWEVER, AFTER THE INITIAL DRILLING.
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PAGE 02 STATE 239386

ACCORDING TO SOURCE, READING AND BATES OPINES THIS IS A
DRY HOLE BUT ONE WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE NO
OIL IN THE DISPUTED ZONE. SOURCE ALSO NOTED EVEN A "DRY
WELL" CAN YIELD VALUABLE GEOLOGICAL INFO.

2. REPORTEDLY, READING AND BATES PERCEIVE MOVEMENT IN THE
PROCESS OF BRINGING TUNISIA-LIBYA DISPUTE BEFORE ICJ.

3. COMMENT: IT IS SURPRISING THAT NO TESTING WAS CONDUCTED ON THIS WELL, SINCE THIS WOULD BE NORMAL PROCEDURE. POSITIVE RESULTS OF TESTING MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO CONCEAL, HOWEVER, AND DECISION MAY HAVE BEEN MADE TO DRILL ANOTHER

WELL INTO SAME POTENTIAL RESERVOIR FROM A DRILL SITE IN AN UNDISPUTED LOCATION. AMBIGUITIES IN REPORTS MAY LEND CREDENCE TO GOT VIEWS THAT RESULTS OF LIBYAN D-2 DRILLING WERE ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THIS CONCLUSION. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, CONTINENTAL SHELF, DISPUTES, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE239386
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALEGGIO:PAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770362-0620
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771091/aaaaczjw.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73fbf236-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 77 TUNIS 7089
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 1026299
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: RESULTS OF READING AND BATES DRILLING IN DISPUTED TUNISIAN-LIBYAN CONTINENTAL SHELF
TAGS: ENRG, PLOS, TS, LY
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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